

September 18, 1983, p. 6.

read the list of buildings and pastors and furnished with the paragraph from DWP's acknowledgements about Meneely/ EAG/ W.A. Carey. I made it very clear to the hundreds of members and guests in attendance that everything that they wanted to know about the BBC's history was contained in DWP's history and then held up a copy and said that copies were available at the rear of the sanctuary and also in front. Over 200 copies "disappeared" in the course of the day at the BBC. I was delighted and DWP will also be delighted when I tell him. What a pleasant experience to see people "pushing and shoving" in order to get a copy of Volume I, Number 2 of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

On March 1, 1848, the Berean Baptist Church of Carbondale was organized. Rev. E. L. Bailey, in his History of the Abington Association from 1807-1857, describes the organizational meeting as follows:

... a council of brethren from neighboring churches, was convened at Carbondale, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, March 1st, 1848, and an English church was organized, of seven members, three males and four females, as the Berean Baptist Church of Carbondale. The following persons were constituent members, viz., Rev. Daniel E. Bowen, John S. Lewis, Geo. R. Haskins, Mary Bowen, Sarah Clower, Louisa L. Berry and Mary J. Craber. The last two are still esteemed members of the church.

The occasion must have been one of peculiar interest and anxiety to the seven members of this infant church, situated as they were, in the midst of a great and growing population, rife with party and prejudice, also, destitute in a great measure of the ordinary means of influence and not disposed to resort to the usual modes of acquiring it, how could they hope to sustain the position they had assumed or diffuse the principles they had embraced. The prospect was, indeed, dark and doubtful, except as it was relieved by the spanning bow of promise. Thus sustained, they moved silently and steadily forward, receiving divine aid and employing the appointed means.

The first notation made in the Berean Baptist Church minute books records the specifics of the ceremony by which Berean Baptist came into being:

The organization of Berean Baptist Church, Carbondale, March 1, 1848. The Council convened at eleven o'clock A.M., Rev. John Miller (of Abington) was elected as Moderator, and Rev. Silas Finn (of Benton), Clark. Then Bro. D. E. Bowen stated the circumstances of the place and the prospects of organizing a regular Baptist Church here and read the articles of faith. After a proper deliberation the Council then proceeded to recognize the Brethren and Sisters as a Gospel Church. The first prayer was offered by the Rev. S. Finn. Rev. Henry Curtis (of Clinton) preached the first sermon from Eph. 1:1. Right Hand of Fellowship by Rev. John Miller (of Abington). Charge by C. Miller (of Clifford), concluding prayer by Rev. S. Tower (of Lenox).

I pointed out that March 1 was St. David's Day and that it was surely no accident that a group of Welsh people should found a Church on St. David's Day. St. David is the patron saint of Wales and in art he is shown standing on a mound with a dove on one shoulder.

When I read the name of Rev. Henry Curtis I made a specific point of looking at Edith Gardner, Gertrude (Gardner) Snyder and Beatrice<sup>(Curtis)</sup> Bartholomay, and that gave them pleasure.

Reverend Anderson from Clinton was present.